

the persons I interviewed, unlock the hidden stores of experience in their minds, and secure opportunities for actually observing and recording the working constitution and diverse activities of the different types of organisation within the Co-operative Movement "

So equipped, she could and did, in the months of freedom, attend sectional conferences, members' meetings and the like all over the north and settle down for days or weeks at a time in great centres like Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle or Glasgow, interviewing co-operatives great and small Mitchell, the Chairman, and J C Giay, the Secretary, became and remained friends

"Three or four times I have dined with the Central Board. A higgledy-piggledy dinner, good materials served up and shovelled down by the participants in a way that is not appetising. But during dinner I get a lot of information, mostly chaff and rapid discussion. Occasionally, I am chafed in a not agreeable way about matrimony and husbands, and the propriety of a match between me and Mitchell. But it is all good-natured, and I take it kindly. After dinner, in spite of the Chairman's disapproval, we smoke cigarettes, and our conversation becomes more of business conversation."

At * contacts" she must always have been remarkably good, and one aspect of these days which was to prove of immense and lasting value was that through them she got very thoroughly inside the Labour movement. In addition to Mitchell and Giay, John Burnett and J J Dent (both at this time of the Labour Department of the Board of Trade) and Benjamin Jones, the Co-operatives, were warm friends, the last three indeed

having been
her "sponsors in the World of Labor" In spite
of her hct
Inevitable cigarette, to say nothing of then
knowledge of
her antecedents, she seldom had any
difficulty in oi any
kind in getting on with these intelligent and
serious working
men, or in getting them to take her seriously,
even when
she began to develop a distinctly heretical
opinion about